

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus having a plurality of paper feed portions capable of setting index sheets, comprising:

5 a storage section which stores predetermined information on a paper sheet set in each paper feed portion; and

a control section which performs processing of automatically changing the paper feed portion between 10 the plurality of paper feed portions on the basis of the predetermined information stored in said storage section,

wherein when index sheets are set in the plurality of paper feed portions and pieces of 15 predetermined information on the index sheets set in the paper feed portions coincide with each other, said control section controls the paper feed portions so as to perform change processing between the plurality of paper feed portions in which index sheets are set, and 20 when the pieces of predetermined information do not coincide with each other, controls the paper feed portions so as not to perform change processing.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined information stored in said storage 25 section includes information on a size and a type of the paper sheet set in the paper feed portion, and when the paper type is an index sheet, information on the

number of index portions and/or a shape of the index portion is further stored.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an index sheet setting section which sets 5 the information on the number of index portions and/or the shape of the index portion.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus further comprises a paper feed portion change setting section which sets whether to 10 automatically enable paper feed portion change processing for each of the plurality of paper feed portions, and when said paper feed portion change setting section performs a setting which permits paper feed portion change processing for the paper feed 15 portions in which the index sheets are set, but the pieces of predetermined information on the index sheets set in the plurality of paper feed portions are determined not to coincide with each other, said control section controls the paper feed portions so as 20 not to perform change processing.

5. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus having a plurality of paper feed portions capable of setting index sheets, comprising:

25 a storage step of storing predetermined information on a paper sheet set in each paper feed portion; and

a control step of performing processing of

automatically changing the paper feed portion between the plurality of paper feed portions on the basis of the predetermined information stored in the storage step,

5 wherein in the control step, when index sheets are set in the plurality of paper feed portions and pieces of predetermined information on the index sheets set in the paper feed portions coincide with each other, the paper feed portions are so controlled as to
10 perform change processing between the plurality of paper feed portions in which index sheets are set, and when the pieces of predetermined information do not coincide with each other, the paper feed portions are so controlled as not to perform change processing.

15 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined information stored in the storage step includes information on a size and a type of the paper sheet set in the paper feed portion, and when the paper type is an index sheet, information on the number of
20 index portions and/or a shape of the index portion is further stored.

7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising an index sheet setting step of setting the information on the number of index portions and/or the
25 shape of the index portion.

8. The method according to claim 5, wherein the control method further comprises a paper feed portion

change setting step of setting whether to automatically enable paper feed portion change processing for each of the plurality of paper feed portions, and when a setting which permits paper feed portion change

5 processing for the paper feed portions in which the index sheets are set is performed in the paper feed portion change setting step, but the pieces of predetermined information on the index sheets set in the plurality of paper feed portions are determined not

10 to coincide with each other, the paper feed portions are controlled in the control step so as not to perform change processing.

9. A computer program product which stores a control program for causing a computer to execute control of an image forming apparatus having a plurality of paper feed portions capable of setting index sheets, wherein the program has

15 a code for a storage step of storing predetermined information on a paper sheet set in each paper feed portion, and

20 a code for a control step of performing processing of automatically changing the paper feed portion between the plurality of paper feed portions on the basis of the predetermined information stored in

25 the storage step, and

in the control step, when index sheets are set in the plurality of paper feed portions and pieces of

predetermined information on the index sheets set in the paper feed portions coincide with each other, the paper feed portions are so controlled as to perform change processing between the plurality of paper feed 5 portions in which index sheets are set, and when the pieces of predetermined information do not coincide with each other, the paper feed portions are so controlled as not to perform change processing.

10. The product according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined information stored in the storage step includes information on a size and a type of the paper sheet set in the paper feed portion, and when the paper type is an index sheet, information on the number of index portions and/or a shape of the index portion is 15 further stored.

11. The product according to claim 10, further comprising an index sheet setting step of setting the information on the number of index portions and/or the shape of the index portion.

20 12. The product according to claim 9, wherein the computer program product further comprises a paper feed portion change setting step of setting whether to automatically enable paper feed portion change processing for each of the plurality of paper feed 25 portions, and when a setting which permits paper feed portion change processing for the paper feed portions in which the index sheets are set is performed in the

paper feed portion change setting step, but the pieces of predetermined information on the index sheets set in the plurality of paper feed portions are determined not to coincide with each other, the paper feed portions

5 are controlled in the control step so as not to perform change processing.

13. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus having a plurality of paper feed portions capable of setting index sheets, wherein

10 when the numbers of index portions and/or shapes of the index portions of index sheets set in the plurality of paper feed portions do not coincide with each other, a paper feed destination is not automatically changed from a paper feed portion

15 subjected to paper feed to another paper feed portion.